# EDUCATION (IRELAND).

The ANNUAL REPORT of the COMMISSIONERS of EDUCATION in *Ireland*, to His Excellency the LORD LIEUTENANT, for the Year ending 25th March 1847.

(*Pursuant to Act of Parliament*, 53 *Geo.* 3, *c.* 107, *s.* 8.)

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TO HIS EXCELLENCY JOHN WILLIAM EARL OF BESSBOROUGH,
LORD LIEUTENANT-GENERAL
AND GENERAL-GOVERNOR OF IRELAND, &c. &c. &c.

WE, the Commissioners of Education in Ireland, constituted and appointed by an Act of Parliament made in the 53d year of the reign of his late Majesty King George the Third, do, in obedience thereunto, respectfully submit to your Excellency a general Report of the Proceedings of the Board since their last Report.

The attention of the Commissioners having been specially directed to some suggested alterations in the rules which regulate the Scholarships held in the University by students who had been educated at the Royal Schools, we beg to state to your Excellency, that, being desirous to make these Scholarships as generally beneficial as possible, we have so modified the regulations as to carry into effect the suggested improvements, particularly in relation to the mode of examination previous to the election of the scholars, and it is gratifying to us to be enabled to quote from the Report presented to this Board that "the examiners have great pleasure in expressing their satisfaction with the answering in general," and, acting upon that Report, we have made the following appointments to Royal Scholarships:

Armagh Royal School—

F. Ivers to a Royal Scholarship of 25*l.* per annum for five years.
E. F. Rambaut, promoted from 25*l.* to 50*l.* per annum.

Dungannon Royal School—

C. Campbell to a Royal Scholarship of 50*l.* per annum for five years.
W. Wallace to a Royal Scholarship of 30*l.* per annum for five years.
E. C. Carroll promoted from 30*l.* to 50*l.* per annum.
R. Dowse, 20*l.* added to his 30*l.*; exhibition for one year.

Enniskillen Royal School—

J. D. Mayne to a Royal Scholarship of 50*l.* per annum for five years.
R. Parke to a Royal Scholarship of 30*l.* per annum for five years.

We have also appointed R. Rogers and W. Bradford, of Enniskillen, to School Exhibitions of 20*l.* per annum each on that foundation.

The proceedings connected with the visitations held under our authority at the Royal Schools of Raphoe and Cavan, as referred to in our last annual Report, having been since brought to a close, we, in conformity with the unanimous recommendations and suggestions of those who had been deputed to hold the visitations, have made such alterations and allocation of the salaries of the respective masters and assistants as, we trust, will have the effect of making those Schools more useful to the public.



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As regards the other Royal Schools, nothing which calls for a special report to your Excellency, either in relation to the teachers or the pupils in attendance, has taken place within the last year.

At the School established by us for the benefit of the tenants of the Armagh School Estate, the number of children in attendance continues to be very considerable, and the exertions and qualifications of the mistress and the lately appointed master are stated to us by one of the Commissioners resident in that neighbourhood to be most satisfactory.

We have endeavoured, by the outlay of such sums as have been reported by our architect to be necessary, to keep the various Royal School Houses in a state of good and substantial repair.

At Armagh, in addition to the ordinary repairs, we have been obliged, in consequence of the age of the building, to expend upwards of 500*l.* in repairing the roof, as well as a considerable sum in erecting a boundary wall.

And at Dungannon we have considerably improved the establishment by the substitution of a protecting wall for a quickset hedge.

Much of our time and attention has been devoted to the endeavour to alleviate as much as possible the loss sustained by the tenants on our various estates by the failure of certain crops. To enter into a detail of the particular steps taken would be out of place in a general report, and it may be sufficient to state to your Excellency, that, with a view to combining the relief of the destitute with useful and reproductive employment, we placed in the hands of our respective agents sums varying according to the nature of each case, for the purpose of enabling them to give employment in draining and other permanent improvements on our estates to such as were otherwise unable to support themselves, or procure employment elsewhere.

We have also authorized loans of seed to the poorer tenantry, and have granted small subscriptions to the Local Relief Committees. We have also granted premiums to such tenants as have made substantial and permanent improvements on their holdings, and who have appeared to us deserving of encouragement.

We have further to report to your Excellency, that, acting on the provisions of the 8th & 9th of Vict., c. 69, &c., we, on petition to the Court of Chancery, obtained permission to assent to the reducing of Lough Neagh to a permanent summer level (a project to which we had previously, on the recommendation of our agent, subscribed a sum of 50*l.*), and which we are of opinion will be advantageous to our Dungannon Estate, and give much employment to the poorer tenantry residing in that district.

With reference to the School of Middleton, which had latterly become very inefficient and thinly attended, we are happy to inform your Excellency, that the late master having resigned his office, the trustees and patrons of that School have appointed as master a gentleman who, it is stated to us, has every prospect of restoring the School to that high position which it for many years held amongst those in the South of Ireland.

The patrons of Eyre Court School, one also of private foundation and endowment, have lately selected as master a gentleman of high classical attainments and collegiate character, and they report to us that a great improvement is already apparent in the School.

The attendance of children at the School of Lifford has, through the exertions of its present master and mistress, become very numerous.

On examination of the annual returns made to us, it appears, that of the Diocesan Schools, that at Londonderry is much the most flourishing, both as to boarders and daily pupils, and it appears to be steadily rising in public estimation.

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In the Diocesan Schools located respectively at Ferns, Monaghan and Cork, the attendance of daily pupils is numerous. At Elphin the number of boarders has considerably increased; and at Rosscarbery the attendance of both classes of pupils is (considering its remote position) very respectable.

The Diocesan Schoolmaster of Limerick states, that, in addition to a former outlay, he has, out of his private means, expended a considerable sum in enlarging and repairing the dormitories of the Diocesan School House.

All which we respectfully submit to your Excellency as our Report.

(signed) MAZIERE BRADY, C. (L. S.)
F. BLACKBURNE. (L. S.)
EDWARD MEATH. (L. S.)
FRANC SADLEIR. (L. S.)
C. R. ELRINGTON. (L. S.)
JAMES WILSON. (L. S.)
ROBERT SHAW. (L. S.)
R^D DUBLIN. (L. S.)

April 9, 1847.

*W^m Cotter Kyle*, L L. D.
Secretary.

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